



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/387,796	09/01/1999	CATHERINE CHRISTENSEN	ST9-99-084	3026
26381	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
LACASSE & ASSOCIATES, LLC 1725 DUKE STREET SUITE 650 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			SAX, STEVEN PAUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/387,796

Applicant(s)

CHRISTENSEN ET AL

Examiner

Steven P. Sax

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,12-16 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,12-16 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. The terminal disclaimer filed 6/13/05 has been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims *1,2,5-10,12-16 and 18-22* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Medl (6108004).

4. Regarding claim 1, Medl shows the computer based method of visually delineating a relationship between related graphical objects in a graphical user interface (Figures 1,4, column 8 lines 44-54), including: associating at least one icon with at least two diverse but related graphical objects, the icon having an associated color scheme (Figures 1, 4, 6, 7, column 10 lines 15-27, 34- 58, column 11 lines 25-40), when one of the related objects is displayed, displaying the icon within the graphical object (Figures

Art Unit: 2174

1, 2, 3A, 4, column 13 lines 34-65), wherein the displayed graphical objects are recognizable as related by the persistence of the icon with the associated color scheme in the displayed graphical objects (column 13 lines 15-35, 43-60, column 14 lines 33-56).

5. Regarding claim 2, the icon is displayed within a visible portion of the graphical object (Figures 1, 3A, 4).

6. Regarding claim 5, the persistence of the icon provides user assistance when traversing a series of graphical templates (column 13 lines 25-45 for example).

7. Regarding claim 6, the objects include windows (Figures 1, 3A, 4 – only one of the items listed in the claim need be shown).

8. Claim 7 shows the same features as claim 1 and is rejected for the same reasons.

9. Regarding claim 8, the objects are located within a graphical user interface (Figure 1 for example, Abstract).

10. Claims 9-10 shows the same features as claims 6-7 and are rejected for the same reasons respectively.

11. Regarding claim 12, in addition to that mentioned for claim 1, note the progression of the objects to reflect an evolution of development of the first object in the series (column 13 lines 20-40).

12. Regarding claim 13, the persistence of the icon provides user assistance when traversing a series of graphical templates (column 13 lines 25-45 for example).

13. Regarding claim 14, the series of objects represent a user assistance wizard (column 13 lines 20-45).

14. Claims 15-16 and 18 show the same features as claims 1-2 and 5 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons.

15. Claims 19-20 show the same features as claims 12 and 14 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons.

16. Claims 21-22 show the same features as claims 1 and 5 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons.

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Note though that the double patenting rejection has been removed.

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

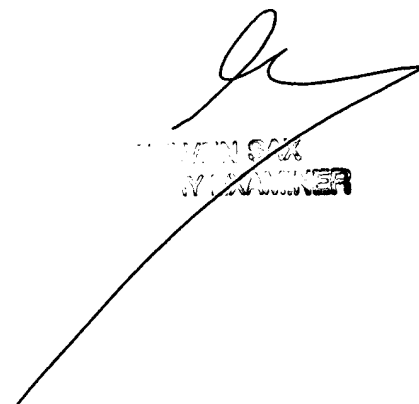
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

\*\*\*

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a rectangular stamp. The signature is a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a long horizontal stroke. The stamp is partially obscured by the signature and contains the text 'KINCAID' and 'KINCAID' in a bold, sans-serif font.